THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) As per Government policy, 1% reservation for allotment of plots/flats has been provided for ex-servicemen in all the registration schemes of DDA.

(b) and (c) As per the Government policy/guidelines 2.2½% of total number of flats allotted during a year can be allotted on out-of-turn basis by the competent authority. However, no separate reservation is provided for ex-servicemen in these out-of-turn allotments.

(d) DDA has fixed a target to allot to 8424 pending registrants during 1992-93.

Acquisition of cultivable land

2563. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMEMT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the farmers from various parts of the country held a rally at the Boat Club on Tuesday against acquisition of cultivable land;

(b) whether they have demanded that if at all the land is acquired in exceptional circumstances the minimum compensation should be paid @ Rs. 500 Sq. meter to the affected farmers; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to remove the grievances of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Urban Development is primarily a State subject. As such the land use regulations are controlled under the various Acts of the State Governments. With increasing population in urban areas certain extent of conversion of agricultural land for urban use is inevitable. However, care is taken as far as possible not to convert furtile wet agricultural lands to non-agricultural use. The payment of compensation for these lands are covered by the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act which provide for payment of market value for the land after due enquiry as laid down in the said Act. If any land is designated in the Master Plan for the use of agriculture, such land cannot be converted for non-agricultural use without following the procedures statutorily laid down in the relevant Town Planning/Master Plan regulations. In the case of lands which are zoned as agricultural land in the Master Plan the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act 1976 is not applicable, and gnuine agriculturalists can hold land put to agricultural use even if th s is beyond the urban land ceilingi limit. The use of agricultural lands is regulated by the Land Reforms Act administered by the States wherein safeguards are built for conversion/transfer of land to non-agricultural uses. It would thus be seen that there are several safeguards built into the existing Acts and regulations to ensure that there is no indiscriminate conversion of agricultural lands for urban use.

Payment of water bills

2564. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking has authorised some of the banks to collect payment of water bills from consumers;